

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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Three Cited for Selling Alcohol to Minors

CLAREMONT - Investigators of the California Department Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) conducted a minor decoy operation in coordination with the Claremont Police Department primarily in the city of Claremont, with one location in the city of Upland. The actions were the result of a compliance check operation on June 22, 2007 in which a minor under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from retail licensees. Three of the retail establishments sold alcohol to the decoy.

All three of the establishments were restaurants in the city of Claremont. They included Aruffos Italian Cuisine, Yiannis Greek Restaurant, and Round Table Pizza. While conducting the operation, a juvenile was also arrested by Claremont Police for a felony weapons charge that was unrelated to the minor decoy operation.

Those who sell to a minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the business's liquor license. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunk driving fatalities than the general adult population. Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that liquor licensees are complying with the law.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.